

RASP is looking for individuals with administrative skills and a passion for the literary arts to join its Board of Directors. RASP is entering a period of exciting transition and growth, and the Board of Directors offers a tremendous opportunity for volunteers to help promote RASP and the literary arts to the Redmond community and impact the organization's development. If you are interested, email info@rasp.cc.

Old Fire House Teen Center in Redmond. The top three winners received prize money and gift certificates.

Write Out Loud! 2004 was substantially funded by the City of Redmond's Arts Commission, with in-kind contributions from Borders Books in Redmond Town Center, Friends of the Redmond Regional Library, and Kinko's Copies of Redmond.

Poets in the Park: The first of its kind, RASP's Poets in the Park conference took place last April at Marymoor Park's Clise Mansion. The event was a great success, with over 85 attendees and faculty participating in this new Eastside literary arts event for professional poets. Highlights included workshops by Peter Levitt, Sheila Bender, Elizabeth Austen, Max Gutmann, and Holly Hughes, and readings and panel participation by Sam Hamill, Madeline DeFrees, Peter Pereira, James Bertolino, and others. Kirkland's Parkplace Books organized a poetry bookfair. The event was made possible by a generous contribution from the Friends of Marymoor Park.

If you would like to learn more about RASP or Write Out Loud!, email info@rasp.cc or visit the RASP website at www.rasp.cc. To learn more about Poets in the Park, visit www.poetsinthepark.com.



Welcome new neighbors



New neighbors at Avondale Park

On August 3, Mayor Ives, Steve Norman of the King County Housing Authority and a representative from Senator Maria Cantwell's office joined other community members in celebration of the grand opening of Avondale Park, a new 61 unit transitional and emergency shelter housing development for homeless families. Located on the former Coast Guard property on Avondale Road NE, Avondale Park is operated by the Eastside Housing Association (EHA). In partnership with Redmond-based Friends of Youth and Hopelink, EHA helps homeless families and individuals transition to permanent housing. With an over 85% success rate, the program offers housing, life-skills and job skills training, childcare and parenting classes, and guidance in managing household finances. Residency for each household is limited to a maximum of two years while they learn the skills needed to find and keep permanent housing and end their cycle of homelessness. The City purchased the property in 1997 from the federal government with the intent to partner with EHA to provide this much needed housing on the Eastside. Kudos to EHA for completion of this wonderful asset to the community, and welcome to all of the new neighbors at Avondale Park.

"For too many years, I've watched as the number of homeless – including children and youth – has increased. Avondale Park is a watershed time in addressing this crisis. Several things about this substantial effort to break the cycle of homelessness are remarkable: the cooperation between the social service partners that led to the founding of the Eastside Housing Association, the welcome reception from the surrounding community, and the excellence with which programs are being delivered. I am confident the residents of Avondale Park will have wonderful outcomes including safe, permanent housing, skills to obtain good employment, and a strong footing upon which to build successful families".

—Howard Finck, Executive Director, Friends of Youth